

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1-18 Cancelled

19. (Previously Presented) A container comprising:

at least one opening through which items are moved between the interior and the exterior of the container; and

a duct system configured to direct an air stream across the opening, the duct system comprising a plurality of air returns;

wherein at least one of the air returns is positioned adjacent to the opening and receives at least a portion of the air stream, the portion of the air stream forming a barrier between the interior of the container and the exterior environment; and

wherein the items are configured to be positioned substantially between at least another one of the air returns and the opening, the another one of the air returns being configured to receive another portion of the air stream.

20. (Original) The container according to claim 19, wherein the container is portable.

21. (Original) The container according to claim 19, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.

22. (Original) The container according to claim 21, wherein the another portion of the air stream is used to maintain the temperature and/or humidity substantially constant.

23. (Original) The container according to claim 19, wherein the items comprise food.

24. (Original) A container comprising:

at least one opening through which items are moved out of the container;
an air curtain provided over the opening to form a barrier between an interior environment of the container and an exterior environment; and

a first side positioned substantially opposite the opening, the first side comprising at least one air return which is configured to receive a portion of the air from the air curtain.

25. (Original) The container according to claim 24, wherein the items comprise food.
26. (Original) The container according to claim 24, comprising a fan configured to circulate the air in the air curtain through the container.
27. (Original) The container according to claim 24, wherein the first side is substantially uniformly perforated.
28. (Original) The container according to claim 27, wherein the first side is substantially planar.
29. (Original) The container according to claim 24, comprising a control system configured to control the temperature and/or humidity of the interior of the container.
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42. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, comprising a fan which is used to move the air stream through the duct system.
43. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, wherein the another one of the air returns is positioned on a side of the container which is at least substantially opposite the opening.
44. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, comprising a water source which is used to humidify the air stream.
45. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, comprising a control system which is used to control the humidity of the interior of the container.
46. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, comprising a baffle positioned in the duct system.
47. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 46, wherein the air stream passes through the baffle.

48. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 46, wherein the baffle is positioned adjacent to a water source which is used to humidify the air stream.

49. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 19, wherein the air stream is heated.

50. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 24, wherein the items are positioned substantially between the at least one air return and the opening.

51. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 24, comprising a water source which is used to humidify the air in the air curtain.

52. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 24, comprising a control system which is used to control the humidity of the interior environment of the container.

53. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 24, comprising a duct system through which the air in the air curtain moves and a baffle positioned in the duct system.

54. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 54 53, wherein the air in the air curtain passes through the baffle.

55. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 54 53, wherein the baffle is positioned adjacent to a water source which is used to humidify the air in the air curtain.

56. (Previously Presented) The container according to claim 24, wherein the air in the air curtain is heated.